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date as to the several points which had in fact been agreed between the U.S. and U.K.

B-1 that I thought that was also what the Department had in mind.

21 indicated

Mr. Watson then continued that he believed that British thinking was along the line that the U.S. and U.K. would actually delay any talks or exchanges with France on the Albanian issue until the military talks in Yugoslavia were either well under way or had terminated. I replied that I believed that our thinking was that there was no useful purpose to be served in such a delay, but that the exchange on the diplomatic level concerning Albania might go forward parallel to, but not linked with, the military talks. It might be possible, for example, for the U.S., U.K. and France to have reached an agreed position on the several problems involved before the matter actually came up in the military talks with the Yugoslavs. In any event we would not raise the Albanian issue in the talks with the Yugoslavs but should the Yugoslavs do so it might just work out that we would already have an agreed position among ourselves and thus be in a position immediately to enter into the substance with the Yugoslavs. Mr. Watson appeared to agree that this seemed a logical course of action. He then raised the question of where the U.S. contemplated holding the talks or actually exchanging any documents with the French in reference to Albania. His approach to this problem indicated that the British had a very definite desire to have this accomplished in Washington. I replied that the Department had not to my knowledge considered this aspect of the problem; I could myself see no objection to Washington but could not of course speak for the Department at this time. Mr. Watson then suggested that the British side might, in communicating with the French once the U.S.-U.K. proposal had been received by the British and French Governments, suggest to the French Government on British initiative that Washington would be an appropriate place to effect such an exchange of views.

EUR:ES:O'Harey:mmh

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